

MIRUM C. PECK.

JANUARY 13, 1897.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House and ordered to be printed.

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Mr. MOZLEY, from the Committee on Pensions, submitted the following

REPORT.

[To accompany H. R. 9619.]

The Committee on Pensions, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 9619) granting a pension to Mirum C. Peck, have considered the same and report:

The claimant is the widow of Hartwell B. Peck, who enlisted May 8, 1848, for the war with Mexico in Company D, Santa Fe Battalion of Missouri Volunteers, and was honorably discharged October 17, 1848. The service is a matter of record at the War Department, and the records also show that a detachment of which Peck was a member while acting as escort to Major Bryant, paymaster, between Leavenworth and Fort Mann, on the Arkansas River, had a severe engagement June 18, 1848, with hostile Comanche and Osage Indians.

The claimant filed an application at the Pension Bureau under the Mexican war pension act of January 29, 1887, but the same was disallowed upon the ground that the Mexican war having ended May 30, 1848, the period of the soldier's service during that war did not cover the sixty days' time necessary to give title under that act.

It will be observed, however, that the soldier's actual service covered a period of five months and nine days. He enlisted in good faith for the war with Mexico and participated in an engagement with hostile Indians while protecting the property of the United States. The value of his services to the country was equally as great as a sixty-day march to Mexico would have been, and the latter would have given his widow title to pension under the general law.

The soldier died January 16, 1865, and his widow, the beneficiary, is now about 66 years old, very poor, and so much affected by lung disease as to be unable to do anything toward earning a support.

The facts are fully shown by the testimony on file at the Pension Bureau.

The passage of the bill is respectfully recommended with an amendment adding after the last word the words "and pay her a pension rated at eight dollars per month."